Telecommunications Development Fund Reform Act ("TDFIA") rectifies this drafting oversight to close the loophole created by the FCC. The TDFIA renames the bidders' initial deposits as "up-front payments" and preserves existing law treatment of the interest earned on these payments. The TDFIA also defines the additional deposits made by successful bidders as "down payments" and treats these down payments the same way as existing law treats the bidders' initial deposits/ up-front payments, i.e., the down payment funds will be required to be placed in an interest-bearing escrow account and upon issuance of the license, the interest earned will be required to be remitted to the TDF.

The amendments made by the TDFIA are purely prospective in effect, applying only to future FCC spectrum auctions. The amendments would have no effect on existing down payments held by the FCC in connection with previously conducted auctions. In particular, the TDFIA would have no effect on the controversy or pending litigation related to the socalled "NextWave" licenses, and would not affect any bidder's entitlement to a refund of deposited funds or any bidder's claim for pay-

ment of interest on any refund.

The FCC does not oppose these provisions of the TDFIA.

Finally, the 1996 Act requires the TDF to satisfy the requirements of the Federal Credit Reform Act of 1990 ("FCRA"), 2 U.S.C. §661 et seq., prior to making loans. Except for this reference, the FCRA applies only to loans made by Federal Government agencies.

One of the purposes of the FCRA was to "place the cost of [Federal] credit programs on a budgetary basis equivalent to other Federal spending." 2 U.S.C. §661(2). Consistent with this purpose, among the provisions of the FCRA are requirements for "budgetary authority" in an appropriations act to cover the cost of new Federal loans or loan guarantees, 2 U.S.C. §661c(b), and application of budgetary accounting requirements to loans subject to the FCRA, 2 U.S.C. §661c(d). These requirements have no logical application to the TDF's funds, which are not subject to congressional appropriations or the Federal budget process. The Office of Management and Budget, to which administration and oversight of the FCRA is entrusted, concurs with this view.

Imposing the requirements of the FCRA on loans made by the TDF has erected an insurmountable barrier to the use of loans by the TDF as a financing option, notwithstanding the intent of the 1996 Act that the TDF be authorized to make loans to credit-worthy small businesses. By making TDF subject to FCRA, TDF would be required to obtain appropriations before it could make loans to prospective borrowers. Requiring the TDF to comply with the FCRA makes no sense from a policy standpoint (TDF receives no appropriated funds) and can only be explained as a drafting error.

The TDFIA repeals this requirement to enable the TDF to enjoy the same flexibility in making loans as any other non-governmental entity. The amendment to the TDF's loan authority made by the TDFIA preserves the requirement that the TDF comply with any other "applicable" Federal law in making loans to eligible small businesses. The amendment to the TDF's loan authority made by the TDFIA is narrowly focused and does not affect the existing substantive criteria of the 1996 Act under which the TDF is authorized to make loans.

Madam Speaker, I hope that the Commerce Committee will schedule hearings on this important technical amendment to the 1996 Telecommunications Act and report the Bill to the full House for consideration early in this Session. I invite my colleagues to join me in passing this important legislation at a time when infusion of additional capital investment into struggling small telecommunications companies may help create jobs, stimulate new technology and expand telecommunications services to under-served urban and rural areas of the nation suffering from the current economic slowdown. This legislation can stimulate important economic activity without enactment of new taxes, appropriation of additional federal funds or any adverse effect on the federal budget deficit. I recommend it to my colleagues for their consideration and thank Mr. UPTON and Mrs. WILSON for their support of this worthy endeavor.

Mr. STEARNS. Madam Speaker, I vield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). All time having expired, pursuant to the order of the House of Tuesday, February 11, 2003, the bill is considered read for amendment and the previous question is ordered.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.
Mr. STEARNS. Madam Speaker, on

that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Ms. Wanda Evans, one of his secretaries.

AMERICAN SPIRIT FRAUD PREVENTION ACT

Mr. STEARNS. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 346) to amend the Federal Trade Commission Act to increase civil penalties for violations involving certain proscribed acts or practices that exploit popular reaction to an emergency or major disaster declared by the President, and to authorize the Federal Trade Commission to seek civil penalties for such violations in actions brought under section 3 of that Act.

The Clerk read as follows:

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "American Spirit Fraud Prevention Act".

SEC. 2. INCREASE IN PENALTIES FOR UNFAIR OR DECEPTIVE ACTS OR PRACTICES EX-PLOITING REACTION TO CERTAIN EMERGENCIES AND MAJOR DISAS-

(a) VIOLATIONS OF PROHIBITION AGAINST UN-FAIR OR DECEPTIVE ACTS OR PRACTICES.—Section 5(m)(1) of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 45(m)(1)) is amended by

adding at the end the following:
"(D) In the case of a violation involving an unfair or deceptive act or practice in an emergency period or disaster period, the amount of the civil penalty under this paragraph shall be double the amount otherwise provided in this paragraph, if the act or practice exploits popular reaction to the national emergency, major disaster, or emergency that is the basis for such period.

(E) In this paragraph-

"(i) the term 'emergency period' means the period that-

"(I) begins on the date the President declares a national emergency under the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.); and

(II) ends on the expiration of the 1-year period beginning on the date of the termination of the national emergency; and

'(ii) the term 'disaster period' means the 1year period beginning on the date the President declares an emergency or major disaster under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.)."

(b) VIOLATIONS OF OTHER LAWS ENFORCED

BY THE FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION.—Section 13 of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 53) is amended by adding at the

end the following:

'(e)(1) If a person, partnership, or corporation is found, in an action under subsection (b), to have committed a violation involving an unfair or deceptive act or practice in an emergency period or a disaster period, and if the act or practice exploits popular reaction to the national emergency, major disaster, or emergency that is the basis for such neriod, the court, after awarding equitable relief (if any) under any other authority of the court, shall hold the person, partnership, or corporation liable for a civil penalty of not more than \$22,000 for each such violation.

(2) In this subsection—

"(A) the term 'emergency period' means the period that—

"(i) begins on the date the President declares a national emergency under the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.); and

 \hat{f} (ii) ends on the expiration of the 1-year period beginning on the date of the termination of the national emergency; and

"(B) the term 'disaster period' means the 1year period beginning on the date the President declares an emergency or major disaster under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.).".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEARNS) and the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEARNS).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. STEARNS. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on this legislation and to insert extraneous material in the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Mr. STEARNS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume

In the weeks since September 11, 2001, this Nation has mourned, has been angry, has been anxious, and has been very generous in response to the needs of those who were affected. This American spirit has reached record levels and now stands as symbolic as this Nation's greatness and ability to support a just cause, the relief of the victims and their families.

But we have also seen the darker side of humanity. Reports of people using this tragedy and the generous American spirit for their own gain have appeared. Scam artists and frauds know that in the aftermath, Americans are all too eager to help. They also appear in the wake of hurricanes, earthquakes, floods, and other such similar disasters.

The Department of Justice, the Federal Trade Commission, and the States' attorneys general already have some powers to prosecute those engaged in fraud and deceptive practices, but we must make it clear that we will severely punish those who aim to take advantage of America's charity or an organization's good name during such an emergency.

Congress must also make sure that consumers are not inundated with false and deceptive claims about goods and services that would exploit the circumstances of an emergency or of such a disaster. Whether it is selling Cipro and other drugs under false information or offering fraudulent terrorist insurance, these practices must carry a penalty commensurate with their nature. We cannot let stand the detestable actions of so few that mar the pride and patriotism we all share over the phenomenal generosity and outpouring of support from across the United States and world. And we cannot let the fear and anxiety of our citizens be preyed upon by scam artists peddling their cheats and their swindles.

Madam Speaker, I have no doubt that the victims of any tragedy, their families and their friends and all Americans are as humbled as I am with the response of this country to disasters. Now we need to ensure that those who would abuse this determined American spirit are equally staggered at our response.

The American Spirit Fraud Prevention Act would double the penalties that the Federal Trade Commission would levy during times of presidentially declared emergencies and disasters if the offending action aims to exploit the crisis.

These times, Madam Speaker, sadly occur more often than one might think, and the attempts to profit from them follow just as regularly. All hope of profit and gain must be removed from the equation for these people.

I personally would like to thank the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr.

BASS) for taking the initiative on this very important bill authoring H.R. 346, the American Spirit Fraud Prevention Act

Madam Speaker, I reserve my time. Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

I rise in strong support of H.R. 346, the American Spirit Fraud Prevention Act, and I also want to commend the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. BASS) for his leadership on this issue, as well as my colleagues on the Committee on Energy and Commerce for ensuring this measure's swift passage through the committee.

September 11 was the worst attack and loss this country has ever experienced on our own soil. Countless lives were lost, and the Nation was confronted with a new reality, a harsh sense of our vulnerabilities. It was the single darkest day this Nation has faced. The one saving grace, the one ray of hope that helped combat the pain, suffering, and sadness of the Nation was the heroism, leadership, and commitment displayed by Americans who were determined to help.

Some helped by giving their lives, and their stories will inspire us forever. Others from across the country helped by giving. Americans made generous donations to provide aid to victims of the terrorist attacks. Over \$1 billion was raised for relief efforts and aid to victims' families in the wake of September 11, from donations, large and small, made by the American public.

Unfortunately, however, some in our country demonstrated the shameful side of humanity by attempting to illegally profit from the tragedy. Those individuals tried to exploit the generosity demonstrated by so many through fraudulent solicitations in which they claimed to be representing organizations benefiting the victims or providing emergency response services. While those despicable acts are already illegal, it is important for the Congress on behalf of our constituents to send a clear message that such behavior will be subjected to even more severe penalties in the future.

Under this measure the maximum civil fines for actions of fraud and attempts to profit from national emergencies in violation of the Federal Trade Commission Act will be doubled. These increased penalties will apply to all violations that occur within 1 year of the time the President declares a disaster and all violations that occurred during and up to 1 year after the expiration of a presidential emergency declared under the National Emergencies Act.

Madam Speaker, the public is caring and committed. We care about the well-being of our neighbors, and we are committed to do what we can to ensure prosperity and security for this Nation, and we will not tolerate those who undermine and abuse the American spirit.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting this measure.

Madam Speaker, I yield the balance of my time.

Mr. STEARNS. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEARNS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 346.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. STEARNS. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, this 15-minute vote on H.R. 346 will be followed by 5-minute votes on the two questions previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following

H.R. 346, by the yeas and nays;

House Resolution 62, by the yeas and nays; and

H.R. 395, by the yeas and nays.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 422, nays 1, not voting 11, as follows:

[Roll No. 24] YEAS—422

Abercrombie Calvert Dovle Ackerman Camp Dreier Cannon Duncan Akin Cantor Dunn Alexander Edwards Capito Andrews Capps Emanuel Baca Capuano Bachus Cardin Emerson Baird Cardoza Engel Carson (JN) English Baker Baldwin Carson (OK) Eshoo Ballance Carter Etheridge Ballenger Case Evans Castle Barrett (SC) Everett Bartlett (MD) Chabot Farr Fattah Barton (TX) Chocola Bass Feeney Clay Beauprez Clyburn Filner Becerra Coble Flake Cole Fletcher Bereuter Collins Foley Berkley Combest Forbes Berman Conyers Ford Berry Fossella Cooper Costello Frank (MA) Biggert Bilirakis Franks (AZ) Cox Bishop (GA) Cramer Frelinghuysen Bishop (NY) Frost Crane Crenshaw Gallegly Bishop (UT) Garrett (NJ) Blackburn Crowley Culberson Blumenauer Gerlach Cummings Gibbons Boehlert Cunningham Gilchrest Boehner Davis (AL) Gillmor Bonilla Davis (CA) Gingrey Bonner Davis (FL) Gonzalez Davis (IL) Goode Bono Boozman Goodlatte Davis (TN) Boswell Davis, Jo Ann Gordon Boucher Davis, Tom Goss Deal (GA) Boyd Granger Bradley (NH) DeFazio Graves Green (TX) Brady (PA) DeGette Brady (TX) Delahunt Green (WI) Brown (OH) DeLauro Greenwood Brown (SC) DeLay Grijalva Brown, Corrine DeMint Gutierrez Brown-Waite, Deutsch Gutknecht Ginny Diaz-Balart, L. Hall Burgess Diaz-Balart, M. Harman Dicks Burns Harris Burr Doggett Hart Burton (IN) Dooley (CA) Doolittle Hastings (FL) Hastings (WA) Buyer

McCrery McDermott Hayes Hayworth Hefley McGovern Hensarling McHugh Herger McInnis Hill McIntyre Hinchey McKeon Hinojosa McNulty Meehan Hobson Meek (FL) Hoeffel Hoekstra Meeks (NY) Holden Menendez Holt Mica Honda Michaud Hooley (OR) Millender-Hostettler Miller (FL) Houghton Hoyer Hulshof Miller (MI) Miller (NC) Miller, Gary Hunter Miller, George Mollohan Inslee Isakson Moore Israel Moran (KS) Issa Moran (VA) Istook Murphy Jackson (IL) Murtha Jackson-Lee Musgrave (TX) Myrick Janklow Nadler Napolitano Neal (MA) Jefferson Jenkins Nethercutt Johnson (CT) Ney Northup Johnson (IL) Johnson, E. B. Norwood Johnson, Sam Nunes Jones (NC) Nussle Jones (OH) Oberstar Obey Kanjorski Kaptur Olver Keller Ortiz Kelly Osborne Kennedy (MN) Kennedy (RI) Ose Otter Kildee Owens Oxley Pallone Kind King (IA) King (NY) Pascrell Kingston Pastor Kirk Pavne Kleczka Pearce Kline Knollenberg Pelosi Pence Peterson (MN) Kolbe Kucinich Peterson (PA) LaHood Petri Pickering Lampson Langevin Pitts Lantos Platts Larsen (WA) Pombo Larson (CT) Pomeroy Latham Porter LaTourette Portman Leach Price (NC) Pryce (OH) Levin Putnam Lewis (CA) Quinn Lewis (GA) Radanovich Lewis (KY) Rahall Linder Ramstad Lipinski Rangel LoBiondo Regula Lofgren Rehberg Lucas (KY) Renzi Lucas (OK) Reyes Reynolds Lynch Majette Rodriguez Maloney Rogers (AL) Manzullo Rogers (KY)

Ruppersberger NAYS-1 Paul

Rogers (MI)

Rohrabacher

Ross

Rovce

Rothman

Ros-Lehtinen

Roybal-Allard

NOT VOTING-11

Gephardt Allen Kilpatrick Cubin Dingell Lowey Ferguson Simpson

Markey

Marshall

Matheson

McCollum

McCarthy (MO)

McCarthy (NY)

Matsui

Smith (MI) Taylor (NC)

Rush ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE Ryan (OH) The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. Ryan (WI) BIGGERT) (during the vote). Members Ryun (KS) are reminded that there are less than 2 Sabo Sanchez, Linda minutes remaining on the clock.

Sanchez, Loretta

Sanders

Sandlin

Saxton

Schiff

McDonald

Schrock

Serrano

Sessions

Shadegg

Sherman

Shimkus

Shuster

Simmons

Slaughter

Smith (NJ)

Smith (TX)

Smith (WA)

Snyder

Souder

Spratt

Stark

Stearns

Stunak

Sullivan

Sweeney

Tancredo

Tauscher

Taylor (MS)

Thompson (CA)

Thompson (MS)

Thornberry

Turner (OH)

Turner (TX)

Udall (CO)

Udall (NM)

Upton Van Hollen

Velazquez

Visclosky

Vitter Walden (OR)

Walsh

Wamp

Waters

Watson

Waxman

Weldon (FL)

Weldon (PA)

Wilson (NM)

Wilson (SC)

Young (AK)

Young (FL)

Weiner

Weller

Wexler

Wicker

Wolf

Wu

Wynn

Woolsey

Whitfield

Watt

Tanner

Tauzin

Terry

Thomas

Tiahrt

Tierney

Toomey

Towns

Stenholm

Strickland

Solis

Skelton

Sherwood

Shaw

Shavs

Scott (GA)

Scott (VA)

Sensenbrenner

Schakowsky

□ 1701

Mr. FLAKE changed his vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.

So (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof), the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1704

RECOGNIZING THE COURAGE AND SACRIFICE OF UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES HELD AS PRIS-ONERS OF WAR DURING THE VIETNAM CONFLICT AND CALL-ING FOR A FULL ACCOUNTING OF THOSE WHO REMAIN UNAC-COUNTED FOR

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and agreeing to the resolution, H. Res. 62.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 62, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 424, nays 0, not voting 10, as follows:

[Roll No. 25] YEAS-424

Abercrombie Bovd Cox Ackerman Bradley (NH) Cramer Brady (PA) Brady (TX) Crane Crenshaw Aderholt Akin Alexander Brown (OH) Crowley Andrews Brown (SC) Culberson Bachus Brown, Corrine Cummings Brown-Waite, Baird Cunningham Baker Ginny Davis (ĂL) Davis (CA) Baldwin Burgess Ballance Burns Davis (FL) Ballenger Burr Davis (IL) Barrett (SC) Burton (IN) Davis (TN) Bartlett (MD) Buyer Davis, Jo Ann Calvert Barton (TX) Davis, Tom Deal (GA) Bass Camp Beauprez Cannon DeFazio Becerra Cantor DeGette Bell Delahunt Capito Bereuter Capps DeLauro Berkley Capuano DeLay DeMint Cardin Berman Berry Cardoza Deutsch Carson (IN) Diaz-Balart, L. Biggert Bilirakis Diaz-Balart, M. Carson (OK) Bishop (GA) Carter Dicks Bishop (NY) Case Doggett Castle Bishop (UT) Dooley (CA) Blackburn Chabot Doolittle Blumenauer Chocola Dovle Blunt Dreier Clay Clyburn Coble Boehlert Duncan Boehner Dunn Bonilla Cole Edwards Bonner Collins Ehlers Bono Combest Emanuel Boozman Conyers Emerson Boswell Cooper Costello Engel English Boucher

Etheridge Everett Farr Fattah Feeney Filner Flake Fletcher Foley Forbes Ford Fossella Frank (MA) Franks (AZ) Frelinghuysen Frost Gallegly Garrett (NJ) Gerlach Gilchrest Gillmor Gingrey Gonzalez Goode Goodlatte Gordon Goss Granger Graves Green (TX) Green (WI) Grijalva Gutierrez Gutknecht Hall Harman Harris Hart Hastings (FL) Hastings (WA) Hayes Hayworth Hefley Hensarling Herger Hill Hinchey Hinojosa Hobson Hoeffel Hoekstra Holden Holt Honda Hooley (OR) Hostettler Houghton Hoyer Hulshof Hunter Hyde Inslee Isakson Israel Issa Istook Jackson (IL) Jackson-Lee (TX) Janklow Jefferson Jenkins John Johnson (CT) Johnson (IL) Johnson, E. B. Johnson, Sam Jones (NC) Jones (OH) Kanjorski Kaptur Keller Kelly Kennedy (MN) Kennedy (RI) Kildee Kind King (IA) King (NY) Kingston Kirk Kleczka Kline Knollenberg Kolbe

Kucinich LaHood Lampson Langevin Lantos Larsen (WA) Larson (CT) Latham LaTourette Leach Lee Levin Lewis (CA) Lewis (GA) Lewis (KY) Linder Lipinski LoBiondo Lofgren Lowey Lucas (KY) Lucas (OK) Lynch Maiette Maloney Manzullo Markey Marshall Matheson Matsui McCarthy (MO) McCarthy (NY) McCollum McCotter McCrery McDermott McGovern McHugh McInnis McIntyre McKeon McNulty Meehan Meek (FL) Meeks (NY) Menendez Mica Michaud Millender-McDonald Miller (FL) Miller (MI) Miller (NC) Miller, Gary Miller, George Mollohan Moore Moran (KS) Moran (VA) Murphy Murtha Musgrave Nadler Napolitano Neal (MA) Nethercutt Ney Northup Norwood Nunes Nussle Oberstar Obey Olver Ortiz Osborne Ose Otter Owens Oxley Pallone Pascrell Pastor Paul Payne Pearce Pelosi Pence Peterson (MN) Peterson (PA) Petri Pickering Pitts Platts Pombo Pomerov

Porter

Portman

Waxman

Weiner

H415 Price (NC) Pryce (OH) Putnam Quinn Radanovich Rahall Ramstad Rangel Regula Rehberg Renzi Reyes Reynolds Rodriguez Rogers (AL) Rogers (KY) Rogers (MI) Rohrabacher Ros-Lehtinen Ross Rothman Roybal-Allard Royce Ruppersberger Rush Ryan (OH) Ryan (WI) Ryun (KS) Sabo Sanchez, Linda Sanchez, Loretta Sanders Sandlin Saxton Schakowsky Schiff Schrock Scott (GA) Scott (VA) Sensenbrenner Serrano Sessions Shadegg Shaw Shavs Sherman Sherwood Shimkus Shuster Simmons Skelton Slaughter Smith (NJ) Smith (TX) Smith (WA) Snyder Solis Souder Spratt Stark Stearns Stenholm Strickland Stupak Sullivan Sweenev Tancredo Tanner Tauscher Tauzin Taylor (MS) Taylor (NC) Terry Thomas Thompson (CA) Thompson (MS) Thornberry Tiahrt Tierney Toomey Towns Turner (OH) Turner (TX) Udall (CO) Udall (NM) Unton Van Hollen Velazquez Visclosky Vitter Walden (OR) Walsh Wamp Waters Watson Watt